



## ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE November 1, 2002

George H. Ryan  
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen  
Homeland Security Director

- The Illinois Terrorism Task Force's (ITTF) application for Federal Fiscal Year 2002 Department of Justice First Responder Grant has been approved for a total of \$10,600,400. The funding will support equipment purchases and exercises across the state. Meetings among ITTF's nine committees continue to define the priorities of the budget for Federal Fiscal Year 03 which include:
- The Volunteer and Donations Committee is finalizing local and county guidelines for handling spontaneous volunteers. The Committee plans to develop volunteer management support teams, comprised of 5-6 individuals, who would be deployed to an incident to work with volunteers.
- The Communications Committee is developing the Illinois Emergency Communications System, a vehicle based, interoperable communications system which will be pre-positioned at nine sites across the state.
- The Training Committee recommended three conferences be held to develop hazardous materials teams, technical rescue teams, and special containment teams be held to develop training for next year.
- The Prevention/Crisis Response Committee is finalizing plans for the proposed Statewide Terrorism Intelligence Center (STIC). STIC is a joint initiative between the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, in concert with their partners in the criminal justice community. The Committee is also prioritizing equipment for the State Weapons of Mass Destruction (SWMD) teams and other first responder groups.

- The Homeland Security public service announcement developed by the Public Information Committee to the ITTF is scheduled to be released around the State of Illinois during the first part of November.
- The Health Alert Network Portal ([www.idphnet.com](http://www.idphnet.com)) system is now operational with 17 of 94 local health departments converted to the new system. The portal system enables local health departments to securely access Centers for Disease Control and Prevention health alerts and other information.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Division of Environmental Health has developed a guide on environmental issues of chemical and biological agents for environmental health professionals and response organizations which provides information on the signs and symptoms, detection, persistency in the environment, personal protective equipment, environmental sampling, and decontamination for chemical and biological agents. The guide also provides fact sheets from federal and state agencies.
- IDPH continues to establish an Electronic Hospital By-pass/Resource Management Program. The goal is to have the secure Internet program performing in a pilot mode by January 1, 2003, with statewide implementation scheduled for March 1, 2003. The program will allow IDPH to monitor the status of hospital emergency departments and provide an early warning signal of increased activity. Hospitals will access the program through the Internet and electronically submit diversion status. When functional, IDPH will be capable of evaluating emergency department activity via automatic notifications.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health attended the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V, State and Regional Emergency Communications Interoperability meeting. Participants were provided with an overview of the latest federal programs which enable emergency communications and how to access them.

- IDPH, in cooperation with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, began a series of Hazardous Material Awareness Train-the-Trainer programs for emergency medical service lead instructors who will be able to provide the training to the EMS community.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health participated in the Association of State and Territorial Health Officer (ASTHO) conference call to discuss state-based perspectives and issues related to current national smallpox activities. The Department has completed a “rash” protocol in assessing a suspect case of smallpox which includes definition(s), protocol, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria for determining the risk of smallpox, laboratory evaluation, major and minor smallpox criteria, conditions with vesicular and pustular rashes, and variant presentations of smallpox.
- The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) participated in the third federally evaluated radiological emergency preparedness (REP) exercise for the Braidwood Station Nuclear Plant. The partial-scale exercise demonstrates the accident analysis and protective action decision-making process in the Springfield IDNS Radiological Emergency Assessment Center (REAC), with coordination through the State Emergency Operations Center, Forward Command Post, Joint Public Information Center, Utility Corporate Emergency Operations facility, on-site Technical Support Center, and County Emergency Operations Centers.
- IDPH completed a working draft of the Illinois Mass Vaccination Plan. In the setting of a communicable disease which requires large-scale vaccination or antibiotic prophylaxis, advance planning will be critical. The plan covers mass vaccination and prophylaxis programs ranging from the distribution of a few hundred doses of an antibiotic to the vaccination of hundreds of thousands in the chaotic setting of a smallpox outbreak. There is only a handful of diseases for which mass vaccination and/or antibiotic prophylaxis would be

indicated in the setting of a natural or introduced epidemic. These include:

1. Vaccination only (Smallpox and Measles)
2. Antibiotic (or antitoxin) prophylaxis only (Plague, Tularemia and Botulism toxin)
3. Immunoglobulin prophylaxis (Hepatitis A)
4. Vaccination and Antibiotic prophylaxis (Anthrax, Meningococcal disease, and Influenza)

The document is a generic plan but includes disease specific information in a series of appendices. The document includes specific information on planning, running, and evaluating mass vaccination plan (MVP) clinics.

- The Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Laboratories (DOL), has been participating in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) proficiency studies for screening tests on the PCR Light Cycler. Current capabilities include anthrax and plague in the Chicago laboratory, and anthrax in the Springfield laboratory (the Springfield laboratory is currently working on the plague procedure). For high priority samples, preliminary results can be available within a few hours. A 24- to 48-hour culture method will be needed to confirm the result. The CDC has accepted the Chicago laboratory for participation in a *Francisella tularensis* (tularemia) validation study for the Light Cycler prior to official release of the method. Another screening tool, also with a one day or less turn around time, is the Victor (Time Resolved Fluorescence) ELISA for ricin and SEB (Staphylococcal enterotoxin B). The Springfield laboratory has developed the ricin and SEB procedures and have performed in-house checks. (CDC does not yet provide proficiency tests for the methods.) Other preliminary screening tests are planned as CDC provides methods and materials.
- The IDPH gave a presentation at the Northwest States Regional Epidemiology meeting on its experience with anthrax samples last fall. Representatives from 11 states, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attended the meeting.

- The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) is currently working in conjunction with the FBI and Northern State Weapons of Mass Destruction (SWMD) Team for a back-up Joint Operations Center (FBI) and Storage/base of operations. A tour of the site was given on October 22. In addition, blueprints were provided to the FBI of the dietary facility.
- IDOC will be meeting with the American Red Cross on Mass Care plans on November 1.